
Socialism

-The Basis for Happiness

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THE BASIC CAUSE OF MISERY

IN OUR daily life the one thing we are constantly striving for is happiness.

All our conduct and all our actions are aimed at this one objective. In eras gone by, happiness and contentment were beyond the reach of most of the people. The reason for this was that, owing to the low development of the means of production, it was necessary for men, women and children to toil long hours in order to extract the means of subsistence from Mother Earth.

It is quite obvious that when a human being has to devote 14 or 16 hours of the 24 to laborious work in order to supply himself with food, clothing and shelter, there is very little time left for a proper enjoyment of life. Until the beginning of the 20th century or thereabouts it was necessary for most people to spend the major portion of their daily lives in struggling to solve the bread and butter question.

With the development of the machine age, however, a change took place in society. Electricity and steam became powerful substitutes for man-power, thereby making it possible for the human race to be liberated from the hard manual labor of former days. The machine age brought with it such a vast increase in productivity that a new phenomenon appeared on the face of the capitalist globe.

Whereas, formerly, we saw people starving because of a lack of sufficient food, or going ragged because not enough

clothing could be manufactured, the dawn of the new century brought about a state of affairs where people went ragged and hungry not because of an insufficiency of the means of life—but because there was an overabundance of those essentials.

Thus, we saw the spectacle in these United States of the cotton, corn and wheat crops being burned, plowed under, or destroyed because there were no profits to be found in their marketing. And this condition exists side by side with a state of affairs where millions of people are suffering the pangs of hunger because they lack the wherewithal to purchase these things which are being destroyed.

When one looks back a century ago to the manner in which the people of that day lived, and when we realize the gigantic strides that civilization has made within the past one hundred years, it is difficult to understand why people should still be suffering. According to Senator Borah, 80 per cent of the world's population, or 1,600,000,000 are living below the poverty line, of whom 40,000,000 are in America. This means that one-third of the population of the United States is made up of paupers.

PLENTY FOR ALL

ON THE other hand, in a report submitted to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, it is stated that: "The productivity of American industry has developed to such a high degree of excellence that every human demand for necessities and every normal desire for luxuries can be fully satisfied."

There is only one obstacle that stands in the way of the American people, preventing them from realizing the benefits of this modern civilization. That lone impediment is the private ownership of the means of production which are necessary for society's existence. It is the mission of the working class to transform our present society into one wherein all the advantages, which have been created by human brain and muscle, can be utilized for the benefit of all society—instead of for a parasitic few.

According to statistics supplied by the U. S. Government, 1 per cent of the population of America, owns 60 per cent of the wealth. On the other hand the overwhelming majority of the American people owns practically nothing but a few sticks of furniture, plus the clothing on its back. Capitalist production has resulted in creating a few millionaires at one end of the pole and millions of paupers at the opposite end.

The capitalist class, in the course of its development, has managed to appropriate practically all of the natural resources of the country as well as the mines, railroads, buildings, etc., which have been produced by the working class. This concentration of wealth and centralization of capital is a logical development of capitalism and has resulted in creating the present situation wherein most of the population of America exists in dire misery and poverty. America today is not owned by the American people. It is in the possession of a small fraction, the capitalist class, which through its ownership of the social necessities, is enabled to exploit the rest of the populace. Further prog-

ress of the human race is impossible so long as this state of affairs continues. For that reason the capitalist mode of production must be overthrown. Then all the people will be able to reap the benefits of increased productivity instead of the chosen few who alone enjoy them today. When the working class is successful in overthrowing capitalism and establishing Socialism then, for the first time, will it really be possible for the human race to begin to march in a progressive direction toward the goal of all human beings—happiness.

Socialism will be able to launch the human race on the road to happiness because the fundamental question of human life will be solved with the institution of a Socialist commonwealth. As was pointed out in the foregoing, the bread and butter problem is the main obstacle to human happiness. The necessity to scratch for a living, the constant worry and fear, either of the loss of a job or the necessity of finding a job, is the greatest source of misery in present-day life. Socialism will solve the bread and butter question by socializing all the means of wealth production, thereby making it possible for every able-bodied person who is willing to work to give his labor to society in exchange for the things needed for existence. This will immediately remove the greatest cause of human misery.

SOCIALISM SPELLS PROSPERITY

UNDER SOCIALISM, the industries instead of being owned privately will be owned by all the people and they will be operated for the use of everyone. Under such a social

system it will not be necessary for people to hoard wealth or to deprive themselves in their youth in order to insure somewhat of an existence in their declining years. Even today, with the enormous waste of wealth and labor which capitalism is responsible for, there is enough produced to give every man, woman, and child in America a plentitude of everything. With the elimination of the profit motive in industry, and with production being carried on solely to meet the needs of the people, there is a guarantee of security which the human race has never before known.

Just as Smallpox, Cholera and other fearful epidemics of the dark ages gave way before modern scientific knowledge, so will the scourge of involuntary starvation be wiped out with the institution of Socialism. Under such a system people could bear children and bring them up without fear of their future. Under capitalism parents strive and sacrifice to educate and train their children so that they may be better equipped to fight their every-day battles and yet millions of young people, trained as architects, engineers, doctors, etc., are unable to find a place in present-day society. Socialism by guaranteeing to every one a chance to earn a livelihood would be responsible for removing the cause of at least 90 per cent of all the misery which afflicts the human race.

Under Socialism there would be no such thing as an overabundance of labor-power. The more workers in the community, the fewer would be the hours of work. Under capitalism, the more labor power there is, the longer the hours of work become because workers are compelled to

compete among themselves for jobs, thereby reducing their standards.

ABOLISH ILLNESS AND ACCIDENTS

ONE OF the basic causes of human misery today is ill-health and much of this can be directly traced to the industrial system under which we are now living. The intensification of labor in industry, brought about by speed-up systems and other schemes given birth to by the greed for profits, is directly responsible for many of the physical ailments from which human beings suffer today. Stomach trouble, nervousness, as well as the vast number of occupational diseases are unnecessary in a sane society. The many physical and mental ailments to which women fall victims because of the unnatural lives they are forced to live under capitalism will likewise be eradicated when Socialism exists in America. Industrial accidents which extract a large toll in both lives and health of the workers can be practically eliminated when the profit system is abolished. It will not be necessary for people to deny themselves medical attention because they cannot afford to pay the necessary fees. The best care and attention will be available for any who may fall ill. At the same time it will be to the interest of the medical profession to keep people in good health.

Today, unfortunately, doctors and nurses can only get incomes when people are sick. As soon as a man gets well the doctor suffers by losing a patient. Under Socialism, the health division will be expected to keep us in good health. The less sickness that prevails, the more leisure-time will be

available for the health division. Thus it will be to the interest of the medical profession to eradicate disease and ill-health from the category of human ailments. This is not possible so long as the profit motive governs society. Socialism is bound to bring with it a tremendous uplift in the physical and mental well-being of the population of America so that another source of human unhappiness would be eradicated.

INCREASED EDUCATION AND CULTURE

THE MAJORITY of the people today are poorly educated and sadly lacking in culture. In order to operate the means of production under capitalism very little education is necessary for the majority of the people and consequently only a low degree of culture is required in order to keep the slaves chained to the wheels of industry. Under Socialism it would not be necessary for the average person to enter industry before he or she is at least twenty-one years of age. This means there will be a longer period of schooling with a consequent higher degree of culture.

On the other hand the hours of labor would be so shortened that there would be more leisure time for the industrial workers so that they would be able to utilize this leisure time to advance themselves both intellectually and culturally. Thus, all the people will have an opportunity to appreciate the finer things of life. Good literature, music, art and science will not be things which only a few can enjoy, but, as the intelligence of the people is raised by a greater degree of education, the way will be prepared for all society to

take advantage of the fine arts. In ancient Greece, the high degree of culture developed in the upper classes was made possible by the employment of large numbers of slaves to do the necessary work. It has been estimated by authorities that the power used in the United States today is equal to the manual labor of three billion human beings but unfortunately this vast increase in the productive forces is of benefit only to the capitalist class which uses its private ownership to enslave the rest of society. Under Socialism the machinery, etc., will be the "slaves" of the people, thereby making it possible for all to develop a high degree of culture.

The increase in leisure time as well as the increase of income will make travel available to all the people. It will not be necessary for human beings to live and die in the place of their birth, but opportunity will be afforded for all to visit various parts of the earth and enjoy all the wondrous things in the universe.

BETTER FAMILY LIFE

FAMILY LIFE will be greatly enhanced in the new society. Most everyone knows that the greatest source of disharmony in our present-day family life is caused by the intense struggle for existence made necessary by the economic conditions. When the head of the family has to slave from morn to night, and while the woman of the family has just as hard a task to manage the household, it is only natural that this is bound to lead to disagreements in the family. The old proverb: "When poverty comes in the door, love

flies out of the window," is a truism which cannot be denied. Socialism by removing the fear of poverty and by making it possible for human beings to live in comfortable and satisfied circumstances would thereby be the cause of removing one of the greatest sources of the discontent that is responsible for disrupting so many marriages today.

ONLY SOCIALISM CAN END WARS

ONE OF the greatest scourges that class society has inflicted on the human race is war between nations. The late Woodrow Wilson well said that all wars are commercial wars. Owing to the fact that capitalist nations find it necessary to seek outlets for their surplus products, the search for foreign markets brings one capitalist nation into conflict with another thereby creating a state of affairs which results in war. With the abolition of the profit system the cause of all wars is immediately removed.

The late World War, aside from all the material wealth which was destroyed, was responsible for the killing or maiming of upwards of 30 millions of human beings. The unhappiness which this one war brought to the human race is incalculable. Under Socialism, war would be an impossibility because there would be no need for nations to look for foreign markets in rivalry with other nations. International trade, meaning thereby the exchange of one nation's goods for its requirements of other nations, can be carried on without any conflict arising. The reason this will be possible is that exchange will be carried on for *use* and not for *profit*. People will not have to dread the day when their sons will be

dressed up in uniforms and sent out to fertilize the fields of some foreign land in the interest of the capitalist class.

A LAND WITHOUT STRIKES

STRIKES AND industrial conflicts will likewise be things of the past. The industries will be operated by all the people with the workers in the industry selecting their foremen, superintendents and all other representatives needed for the carrying on of social production in an harmonious manner.

Exploitation of labor will be done away with. Private ownership of the means of life will be banished. There being no capitalist class, there will be no struggle for the wealth created by labor. An industrial democracy, such as Socialism proposes, will completely eliminate such industrial disputes.

Crime—90 per cent of which is traceable to the social inequalities raised by our vicious industrial system—would likewise gradually be thrust into the dim past. Prostitution, hatred, vengeance, greed and other unnatural human traits will be replaced by the finer qualities which are inherent in the human race.

The thousand and one problems that beset the people today will be non-existent under the industrial democracy that Socialism will bring into being.

It has been estimated that with the present capacities of the workers of America, a human being would work from the time he is 25 years of age until he is 45 years old. It would not be necessary that he work more than two hours

per day, four days per week, and eight months per year. During these twenty years of industrial activity he could produce sufficient wealth to give him and his family the equivalent of a present-day \$20,000 per year income as long as he lives. This means that people could eat good food and would not have to consume the adulterated products which are made necessary by the low standard of living that capitalism inflicts upon the working class. It means also that we could live in good houses with proper sanitary conditions and good living facilities. It would not be necessary for people to be crowded into slum districts or banded together in a few cities but this gigantic land of the United States could really begin to be put to proper use by all the people.

WHAT MUST BE DONE

IT SEEMS almost inconceivable, but nevertheless it is easily possible for the people of the United States to make America a heaven on earth. The transformation of society requires first, that the workers be educated to the point where they recognize that capitalism holds out no hope for them and that the only solution to the many problems which vex us is:

1. To abolish this industrial system and substitute in its stead a Socialist means of production;
2. That the workers organize themselves into unions, patterned according to the industries in which they work. The object of these unions will be to take over the industries and run them in the interest of all society;

3. The organization of a political party of labor, reflecting the desires of the workers on the industrial field and advocating the complete abolition of capitalism and the institution of Socialism.

SOCIALISM OR FASCISM

IF THE workers of America do not awaken to the task that lies before them, capitalism is going to continue to be more and more destructive to our welfare. No reform is possible today. No scheme, whether it be called NRA or anything else, is going to better the conditions of the workers. Unemployment will increase; more workers will be thrown on governmental agencies for relief; wages will continue to go down; speed-ups in industry will grow more intense; the standard of living will steadily decline; the brutality of the capitalist class in industrial conflicts is certain to become worse, with more and more workers being massacred by the mercenary guardsmen in the employ of the state.

The longer the workers wait before moving to perform their historic mission, the closer we must come to Fascism. This is the name for the modern tendency which exists in all capitalist nations. Under Fascism, the workers are regimented by the state so that a condition bordering on serfdom prevails. No strikes are permitted, thereby placing the workers at the mercy of the owners of industry. Political rights are abolished; free speech and free press are non-existent for the workers, and jails and prison camps open up to swallow anyone who dares to raise his voice in behalf of the workers.

If the American working class would avoid the tragedies met by the Italian, Austrian and German workers, it must organize for the abolition of capitalism, or suffer the consequences of its failure.

Socialism means life, hope and progress. Capitalism means slavery, misery, degradation and tyranny.

The AMERICAN LABOR PARTY at the present time is the political organization of the working class which is striving to educate the workers to an understanding of their position in society so that they will organize in the proper manner, i.e., into Socialist Industrial Unions for the purpose of overthrowing capitalism.

Until the working class is educated nothing can be expected that will mean progress and so the prime function of every class-conscious worker today is to see to it that his fellow worker is educated until he becomes class-conscious and understands his mission in society.

We, therefore, call upon all workers who have emancipated themselves from capitalist psychology to rally around the banner of the AMERICAN LABOR PARTY and aid us in our efforts to arouse the working class to abolish capitalism and establish Socialism.

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